nave a post office at the end of December, 1987;

(b) whether such villages would have a post office in the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The information as on 31-3-1988 is furnished in the annexed statement . *(See* below)

(b) to (d) No, Sir, not all such villages will have a post office by the end of seventh Five Year Plan. There is a phased programme of opening of - new post offices in rural areas. The number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan (1988-89 and 1589-90) is about 5,000.

Statement

Villages not having post offices as on 31-3-1988

S.No.	Circle	No. of villages not having post office
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12701
2.	Assam	18903
3.	Bihar	57157
4.	Delhi .	99
5.	Gujarat .	10383
6.	Haryana	4590
7.	Himachal Pradesh .	• 14472
8.	Jammu & Kashmir .	5183
9.	Karnataka	18822
10.	Kerala	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	61847
12.	Maharashtra	29461
13.	North Eastern .	10661
14.	Orissa	39550
15.	Punjab .	9080
16.	Rajasthan	26137
17.	Tamil Nadu .	6246
18.	Uttar Pradesh .	96223
19.	West Bengal	31657
	TOTAL :	4,53,172

Maintenance of telecommunications equipments

1328. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUA-SEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate attention is not being paid to the proper installation and maintenance °f telecommuications equipments, which is one of the major reasons for the low efficiency of the telecom net work in the country despite its having some of the latest devices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof- and

(c) what are the reasons for poor functioning of the telecommunication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) No, Sir. Adequate attention is paid for proper installation and maintenance of telecommunication equipment in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Telecommunication services are generally satisfactory in the country.

However, for further improvement of thi$_s$ Telecom system, the following actions are taken under Mission Better Communication.

(i) Replacement of old life expired electrom$_e$ chanical system.

(ii) Replacement of worn-out and faulty underground cables.

(iii) Replacement of old telephone instruments.

(iv) Replacement of heavy overhead lines by underground cables.

(v) Provisions of drop wire for subscriber line.

(vi) Introduction of stable transmission media such as Micro-wave, Co-axial cables, Optical fibre cables for connecting different parts of the country.

(vii) Introduction of Electronic exchanges in different parts of the country.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

1329. SHRI BAIKUNTHANATH SAHU; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted ban on the opening of new post offices;

(b) if so, the number of new P^0^ offices opened in different parts of th$_e$ country since the ban is lifted;

(c) whether Government have opened any new post office in Orissa ^ince then; and

(d) if $_s$o, the number thereof and how many of these post offices opene<j in the rural areas and particularly the tribal districts like Keonjhar, Mayur. bhanj, Sundergarh etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA- ' TIONS (SHRl GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) . fa) and (b) There $_w$a$_s$ no ban I on opening new post offices. There is a ^{Dan} on creation of new posts 'However, posts required for implementation of Plan Scheme such as opening of new post offices, are sanctioned with th$_e$ aprpoval of Ministry of Finance. Under thi$_s$ arrangement so far, 914 new post offices have been opened.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) 16 new P^{os}* offices have been opened in Orissa out of which 15 have been opened in rural areas. The number of post offices opened in tribal areas is 12.

Power shortage

1330. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased t$_0$ state;

(a) what is the percentage of powe$_r$ shortage in the country during the period April to December, 1987, Statewise; and .

(b) what steps are being faken by Government for becoming self-sufficient in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRl KALPNATH RAI): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) The measures being taken to improve th$_e$ availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission (' and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy^ conservation measures and arranging); trasfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.